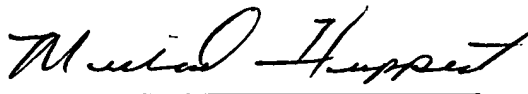


REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to delete original claims 1-11 and add new claims 12-24, thereby deleting the multiple dependency of original claim 6 and addressing minor formal matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Halvor OIEN ET AL.

By 

Michael S. Huppert
Registration No. 40,268
Attorney for Applicants

MSH/kjf
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
December 23, 2004